

03500.013610.1

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)

KENICHIRO ONO, ET AL.)

Application No.: 10/791,901)

Filed: March 4, 2004)

For: SYSTEM HAVING DEVICES)
CONNECTED VIA)
COMMUNICATION LINES)

April 6, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

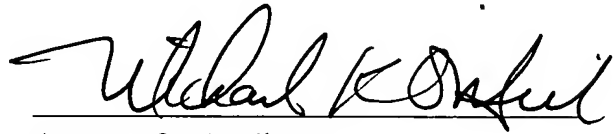
U.S. Patent No. 4,958,270
U.S. Patent No. 5,339,445
U.S. Patent No. 5,535,401
U.S. Patent No. 5,734,818
U.S. Patent No. 5,745,669
U.S. Patent No. 5,822,581
U.S. Patent No. 5,901,320
U.S. Patent No. 6,021,507
U.S. Patent No. 6,189,106
U.S. Patent No. 6,209,051

These documents were cited in parent U.S. Patent Application No. 09/344,509, and might be deemed pertinent for the reasons given therein. In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d), copies of the listed documents are not enclosed as they are of record in parent Application No. 09/344,509.

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 and returning the initialed form to Applicants with the next communication.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to
be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

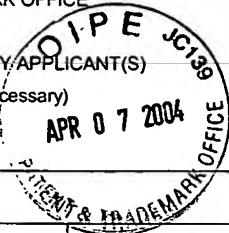
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neil", written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 32,622

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|---|--|--|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) | | | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 03500.013610.1 | | APPLICATION NO. 10/791,901 | |
| | | | | APPLICANT KENICHIRO ONO, ET AL. | | | |
| | | | | FILING DATE March 4, 2004 | | GROUP NYA | |



| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|------------|--------------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| | | 4,958,270 | 09/18/1990 | McLaughlin et al. | 364 | 187 | |
| | | 5,339,445 | 08/16/1994 | Gasztanyi | 395 | 750 | |
| | | 5,535,401 | 07/09/1996 | Rawson III, et al. | 395 | 750 | |
| | | 5,734,818 | 03/31/1998 | Kern et al. | 395 | 182.18 | |
| | | 5,745,669 | 04/28/1998 | Hugard et al. | 395 | 182.01 | |
| | | 5,882,581 | 10/13/1998 | Christeson | 395 | 651 | |
| | | 5,901,320 | 05/04/1999 | Takahashi et al. | 395 | 712 | |
| | | 6,021,507 | 02/01/2000 | Chen | 714 | 2 | |
| | | 6,189,106 | 02/13/2001 | Anderson | 713 | 300 | |
| | | 6,209,051 | 03/27/2001 | Hill et al. | 710 | 103 | |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------|------|---------|-------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT |
| | | | | | | | |

| OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | |
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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.